

Council heads agree on new CYSF model

(cont'd from pg. 1)

Though final ratification of the model presented will depend on each individual college councils' final okay, it would seem evident by the optimism expressed throughout the unofficial voting this past weekend, there may be fewer stumbling blocks to unify student representation than ever before at York.

A First for York

Prior to the conference, the Atkinson College Student Council had moved to form "a committee within ACSA to examine the pros and cons" of a new student government at York. Atkinson College, a non-member of the CYSF, is the largest college on campus with about 12,000 part-time students.

Non-member constituents or colleges may have to contribute to a joint trust fund, as does the CYSF and Bethune college, however non-membership in the new CYSF may mean those particular constituents will not get a rise in their grant. The question remains whether colleges such as Atkinson, Glendon and Osgoode will be able to attain a larger grant next year without being a constituent member of the new central government.

The "Glendon Agreement"

After having been voted down on a part of the electoral structure in the new CYSF 17 to 1 David Chodikoff, CYSF president, suggested a proposal to Garth Brownscombe, president of Glendon's student council, which

may, if successful, include Glendon in the new CYSF.

Stipulated in the agreement was that Glendon students contribute (through the grant to central student government) a token amount of 50 cents per course. This would include Glendon representation on CYSF and, if necessary, include it in any grant increase coming next year. This may be the needed incentive enticing Glendon to join the new structure.

Financial Reform

The CCOY proposal for finances reads, "this proposal calls for a uniform system of funding of student governments at York University based upon the premise that all students should be obliged to contribute an equal amount of money to finance the operation of central university student-run services and activities, and that each student should be required to contribute an equal amount of money to finance a local constituency (be it college or faculty) student government."

The monetary changes mean

that financial contributions from student tuition to constituent councils of the new CYSF may be increased, if ratified by the Board of Governors, from \$12.20 to \$12.50 per FTE (Full Time Equivalent).

Increase in Tuition

The rate donated to student government from student fees was another important aspect of the financial changes. There was a proposed increase from \$27.50 per FTE to an unknown amount as yet, (perhaps \$32.00 as one college president suggested). But the assistant to the vice-president, John Becker, said he felt the possibility of York's Board of Governors allocating more cash to a new student government during a time of severe cutbacks was unlikely without some reasonable alternative form of raising funds.

The concept of incidental funding was briefly discussed but it seems that whatever the final solution, any increase in FTE will mean a rise in fee payments for York students next year. This, according to Becker, isn't a primary matter of concern.

"Students are really not all that price sensitive", he said.

Financial Woes

Given the present financial crunch being experienced by universities across Ontario, the question arises whether the conferences move to decentralize student decision-making power at the cost of student tuition is a move that will convince York's Board of Governors to increase next year's

grants.

During the conference it was expressed that an ideal deadline for each individual constituent to submit an answer was February 1, before the CYSF general elections. Murray Miskin president of Osgoode's Legal and Literary Society, concluded, "hopefully the Board of Governors will see that with all of these councils, we've got a point."

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Students support staff demands

OTTAWA (CUP) — As support staff at Ontario's 22 community colleges took a strike vote, student leaders at four of the colleges asked the Ontario government to accept the staff's bargaining position.

At a meeting Jan. 7, representatives from five colleges agreed to send letters to Ontario colleges and universities minister Bette Stephenson urging her to accept the bargaining position of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU).

Four of the five representatives sent the letters, while one was waiting for response from students on his campus.

According to Bob Reid, student president at Georgian College in Barrie, the letters were sent because "we feel what they're asking for is not outlandish."

"I've looked at both sides. From what I can see, the union has offered compromises, but the government has refused to budge."

"The union offered arbitration; the government refused. If it did that, it must feel its offer is not very sound."

On Jan. 5, the Ontario government announced it would only increase grants to colleges by 5.2 per cent, despite an annual inflation rate of 8.8 per cent in November.

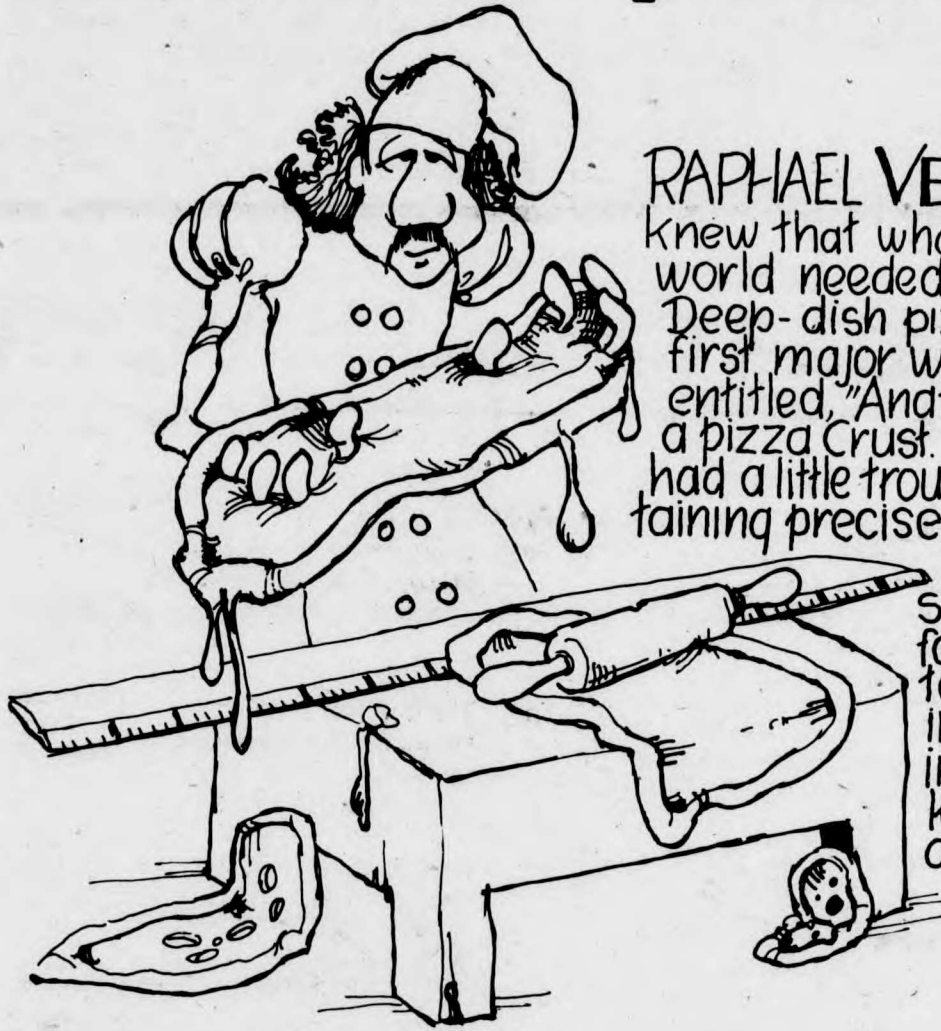
The 4,200 support staff voted Jan. 11 on their negotiators' unanimous recommendation of strike action. In dispute is wage increases, with the union asking for a 10 per cent increase after Jan. 1 and the government offering six per cent.

The vote was not to be disclosed until Jan. 16. Union officials expect it to be positive, and say that the strike could start as early as Jan. 23.

According to Reid, the strike could shut down all of the colleges, because college teachers' contracts specify they will not be penalized for refusing to cross picket lines.

"If they refuse, they're legally protected, so they could close all the colleges down."

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